

February 27, 2009

Proposed SB 240,241 and HB 5296

Dear Chairman Gomes and Green and the entire Housing Committee,

I come to you as a concerned citizen of Connecticut. As a state we must look to incentives to expand our bank of supportive, subsidized and affordable housing units in our state. Many "would be" host community members do not understand the differences of these types of housing units. I feel that to encourage a community to host these units, we should look to our veteran population to use our programs. The men and women that answer the call to service have earned our respect and the right to qualify for programs ahead of others. There is a homeless veteran population in the state that calls us to do more for them, to help them and to make sure we do not turn our backs on them. Also, when a soldier returns from duty he or she may need the support to ease back into the mainstream. Many of our current military members are serving multiple tours of duty in war zones. This bill provides a vehicle for us to say thank you and to build strong communities. These military members will bring their military bearing to subsidized housing communities. All will benefit from this.

To offer an amendment to this concept, may I suggest that widows and the children of those killed in action are also considered for preferential treatment? The families of our fallen heroes can never be compensated for their loss, but we can assure them a safe and dry housing unit.

I feel that we must continually strive to outwardly thank those who answer the call to service. By allowing a percentage of housing units to be awarded to veterans, our state can begin to say thank you.

Sincerely yours,

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